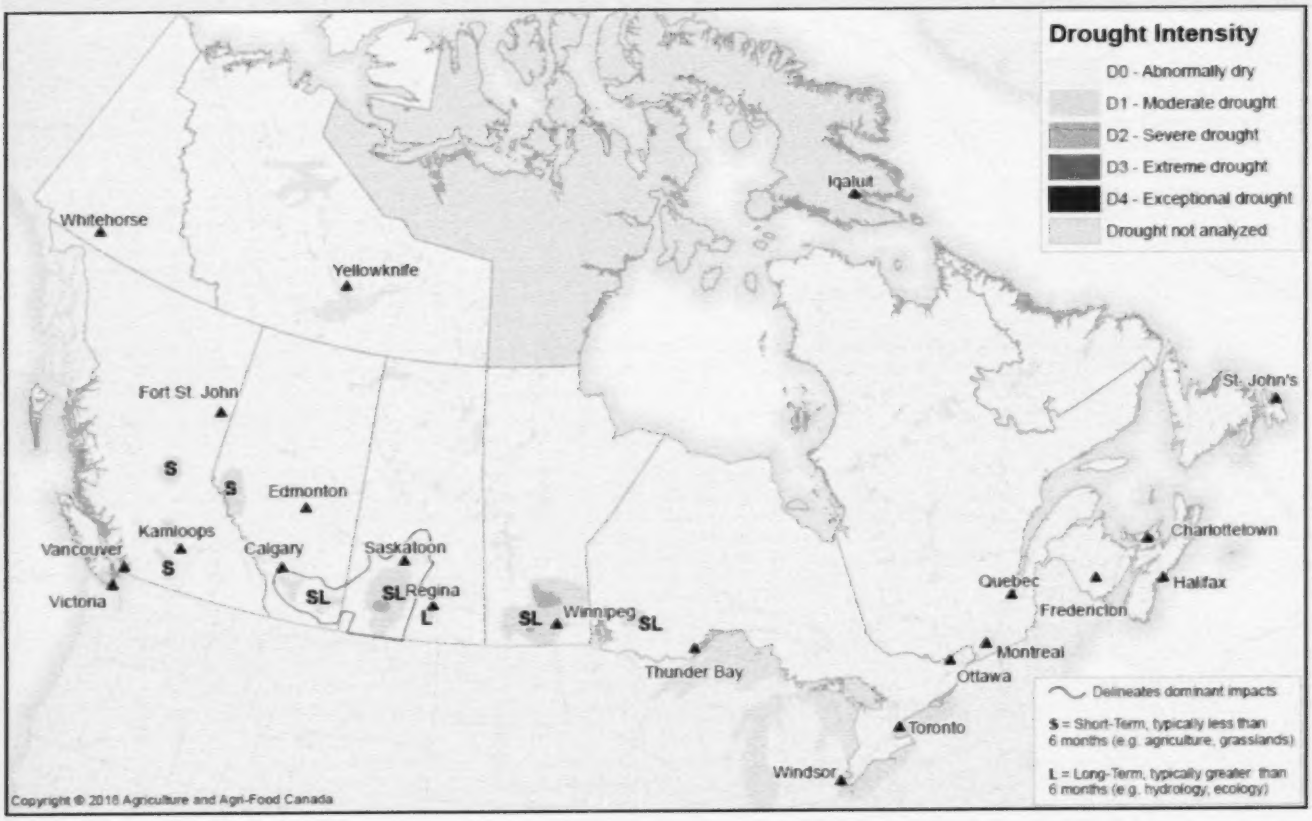
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30th, 2018



Overall the area affected by drought throughout Canada continued to improve, most notably in Northern Alberta. However, there are still some pockets of drought in southern regions of Western Canada, despite recent rain events across much of region. Above average temperatures and below normal precipitation led to expansion of dryness across southern and central portions of British Columbia. The Prairie Region saw significant improvements throughout the month, as substantial precipitation replenished moisture across areas that were previously of concern. Germination proceeded on or ahead of schedule in most areas, relieving concerns regarding agricultural production. Despite short-term relief, abnormally dry and drought conditions persisted in southern areas of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Continued moisture will be required for recovery. Central Canada experienced another warm and dry month, and southern Ontario and Quebec became abnormally dry. Although most of

Atlantic Canada continued to deal with excess moisture impacts, dryness concerns began to develop across New Brunswick. Precipitation deficit and poor streamflow led to persisting drought risk in Northern Canada.

Pacific Region (BC)

Persistent warm temperatures and rainfall deficits increased drought concern across the Pacific region in June. Although the Okanagan region dealt with excess moisture issues, most of the province became very hot and dry. As a result, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded to include much of the province. Soil moisture in the interior of the province declined substantially, and the incidence of active wildfires increased. Significant precipitation deficits and poor soil moisture led to enduring Moderate Drought (D1) along southern Vancouver Island and the southwest. Satellite-derived data indicated that the southern Yukon border had received adequate precipitation since March; thus the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket was removed.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Slow-moving storm systems including substantial rain events during the first two weeks of June brought much-needed relief, helping replenish soil moisture deficits and surface water supplies. These rain events resulted in significant improvement of drought conditions over much of the Prairie Region resulting in the Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) pockets being reduced significantly. Conditions in northern Alberta saw the greatest improvement. The Peace and northwest Alberta regions previously in drought received more than 150 percent of their average June rainfall. These large storm events led to localized flooding in parts of northern Alberta. Precipitation was low in the Rocky Mountains between Grande Cache and Jasper; thus, a D1 pocket developed. Continued dryness in southern Alberta led to enduring D1 conditions between Calgary and Lethbridge and around Medicine Hat. In southeastern Saskatchewan, heavy rains throughout the early part of June improved soil moisture greatly and resulted in localized flooding and damage to some emerging crops. All moisture concerns in southeastern Saskatchewan improved due to above average short-term precipitation. D1 conditions persisted in parts of the southwest that did not receive adequate rain and continued soil moisture deficits lead to spotty and uneven crop emergence. A D2 pocket developed around Swift Current, where short-term precipitation has been substantially low, and long-term moisture deficits are still present. Despite some relief to southern Manitoba, D2 conditions endured in the Interlake and central regions. Pasture and forage conditions improved, but not enough to alleviate concerns for feed availability. Soil moisture in southern Manitoba was poor at the end of the month, and continued rain is required for recovery.

Central Region (ON, QC)

A warm and dry month in Central Canada provided relief from excessively wet conditions across much of Ontario and Quebec. Satellite-derived data indicated that conditions in northern regions had improved; streamflow recovered as a result. Below average precipitation east of Georgian Bay in Ontario and east of Sherbrooke in Quebec led to poor streamflow and the development of two Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets. D0 conditions expanded along the Gulf of St. Lawrence and into New Brunswick due to persisting moisture deficits and poor streamflow.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Most of Atlantic Canada continued to experience normal to above normal precipitation and cold temperatures throughout June. Killing frost early in the month led to significant losses in fruit and berry crops across the region. Parts of New Brunswick continued to experience rainfall deficits, and streamflow deteriorated; thus, an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed in northeastern New Brunswick.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Dryness concern in Northern Canada improved throughout June due to increased precipitation and streamflow. Satellite-derived data indicated that part of the southern Yukon Territory had received adequate precipitation since March; thus the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket around Haines Junction was removed.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (2018).

For more information reach us at www.agr.gc.ca or call us toll-free 1-855-773-0241.